

## Claims

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a configuration module representing configuration information of a node within a clustered system, the configuration module comprising any one of a binary file, the binary file to map a key name to a set of data, a sub-configuration entry comprising an object of the node, or a name-value pair, the name-value pair to map a key name to an object, and a property sheet data structure representing configuration information associated with at least one component within the clustered system including a plurality of property names, a plurality of non-modifiable parameters and a plurality of modifiable parameters, wherein each respective property name included in the property sheet data structure is associated with a non-modifiable parameter and a modifiable parameter; and

a user interface to display contents of the property sheet data structure to allow centralized management of the clustered system and to manage configuration information of at least one dispatcher node that distributes requests to a plurality of nodes of the clustered system, the user interface to receive inputs to select and modify a parameter associated with the property sheet data structure.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the property sheet data structure is associated with a plurality of components contained within the clustered system.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the user interface comprises:

a first dialog box to display contents of the property sheet data structure, the first dialog box including a plurality of entry rows, the entry rows including a first column to display names of corresponding properties, a second column to display configuration parameters associated with the corresponding properties and a third column to indicate if the configuration parameters are default or custom parameters; and

a second dialog box to receive input to modify a custom parameter.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the second dialog box further includes a name field to display a name of a corresponding property and a default field to display a default configuration parameter associated with the corresponding property.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, wherein the second dialog box further includes a data type field to display the data type associated with corresponding property.

6. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
providing a property sheet associated with a component contained within a clustered system, the property sheet including a plurality of configuration parameters, each parameter associated with a name, a default parameter and a custom parameter;  
replacing the component contained within the clustered system; and  
automatically updating the default parameters included in the property sheet with a different default parameter with a corresponding property of a replacement component in response to replacing the component; and  
determining a conflict between each custom parameter included in the property sheet with the different default parameter of the corresponding property of the replacement component.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising:  
determining if a custom parameter included in the property sheet is valid with the replaced component.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising:  
deselecting the custom parameter in response to the custom parameter being not valid with the replaced component.

10. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the cluster includes a plurality of instances.

11-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

providing a configuration module of a node contained within a cluster, the configuration module comprising any one of a binary file, a sub-configuration entry, or a name-value pair, and a property sheet containing configuration information associated with a component contained within a cluster;

displaying contents of the property sheet, the property sheet including non-modifiable parameters and modifiable parameters; and

receiving input to select and modify a parameter of the displayed property sheet; and sending the configuration information to the node in response to a request from the node.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the displaying contents of a property sheet comprises:

providing a number of entry rows;

displaying names of corresponding properties in a first column of each entry row;

displaying configuration parameters associated with corresponding properties in a second column of each entry row; and

indicating if a configuration parameter displayed in the second column is a default parameter or a custom parameter.

18. (Original) The method of the claim 16, wherein the property sheet is included in a configuration data structure containing configuration information associated with the cluster.

19. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

means for displaying contents of a property sheet containing configuration information associated with a component contained within a clustered system, the property sheet having a plurality of properties, wherein each of said properties is associated with a property name, a non-modifiable default parameter and a custom parameter; and

means for receiving input to select and modify a parameter associated with a property included in the property sheet; and

means for selectively updating the parameters included in the property sheet in response to replacing a component by comparing each default parameter of the component to be replaced with a corresponding default parameter of a replacement component.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising:

means for receiving input to select between the default parameter and the custom parameter to be applied to a property included in the property sheet.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the means for displaying further comprises:

means for indicating if a configuration parameter displayed by the means for displaying is a default parameter or a custom parameter.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, further comprising:

means for automatically updating a default parameter included in the property sheet with a different default parameter associated with a corresponding property of the replaced component.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, further comprising:

means for determining if a custom parameter included in the property sheet is valid with the replaced component.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, further comprising:

means for deselecting a custom parameter in response to the custom parameter being not valid with the replaced component.

26. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed by a processor cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

displaying contents of a property sheet data structure representing configuration information associated with at least one component within a clustered system, the property sheet data structure including a plurality of property names, a plurality of non-modifiable default parameters and a plurality of custom parameters;

receiving input to select a custom parameter included in the property sheet data structure;  
storing the modified custom parameter without changing a default parameter corresponding to the modified custom parameter; and

selectively updating the parameters included in the property sheet data structure in response to replacing of a component by comparing each default parameter of the component to be replaced with a corresponding default parameter of a replacement component.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the operations performed by the processor further comprise:

automatically updating a default parameter included in the property sheet data structure with a different default parameter associated with a corresponding property of the replaced component;

determining a custom parameter included in the property sheet data structure is valid with the replaced component; and

deselecting an applied custom parameter in response to the applied custom parameter being not valid with the replaced component.

29. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:  
a central storage node, the central storage node including a configuration data structure,  
the configuration data structure comprising a global configuration module and a sub-cluster configuration module, the central storage node to send information included in the configuration data structure to a node within a sub-cluster in response to a request from the node.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29, further comprising:

the global configuration module comprising a dispatcher configuration module and a server configuration module.

31. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 29, further comprising:

the sub-cluster configuration module comprising a local configuration information associated with ~~a~~the sub-cluster, the local configuration information comprising a dispatcher module and a plurality of server modules, the dispatcher module including configuration information associated with a dispatcher node of the sub-cluster, and each of the plurality of server modules including configuration information associated with each server node of the sub-cluster.